

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2, 13, and 34, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, 12, 14, 15, 33, 35, 36, and 39 as follows:

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1. (Once Amended) A method of treating systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in an individual, comprising administering to the individual a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more molecules comprising double stranded DNA (dsDNA) epitopes which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, wherein the dsDNA epitopes are polynucleotides, wherein affinity of the polynucleotides for the antibody from the individual is used as a basis for selecting the individual to receive or continue to receive the treatment.

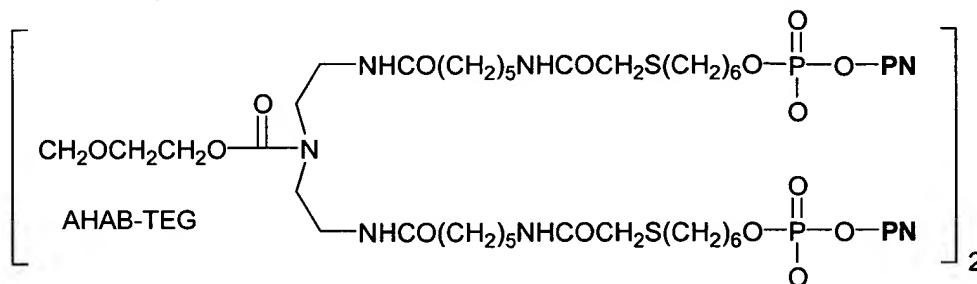
3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides are double stranded DNA.

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4. (Twice Amended) A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising administering to the individual a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotides consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') for the polynucleotides with respect to the antibody from the individual before or upon initiation of treatment is less than about 1.0 mg IgG per ml, and wherein said K_D' value or a functional equivalent thereof is used as a basis for selecting the individual to receive the treatment.

9. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

11. (Once Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the K_D ' is less than about 0.8.

12. (Once Amended) A method of treating SLE in an individual comprising:

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(a) assessing affinity of an anti-double stranded DNA antibody from the individual with respect to a dsDNA epitope which is to be used in treatment, wherein the individual is selected for treatment based on said antibody affinity; and

(b) administering to said selected individual a conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more of the dsDNA epitopes, wherein the dsDNA epitopes are polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA.

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14. (Once Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides are double stranded DNA.

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15. (Twice Amended) A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising

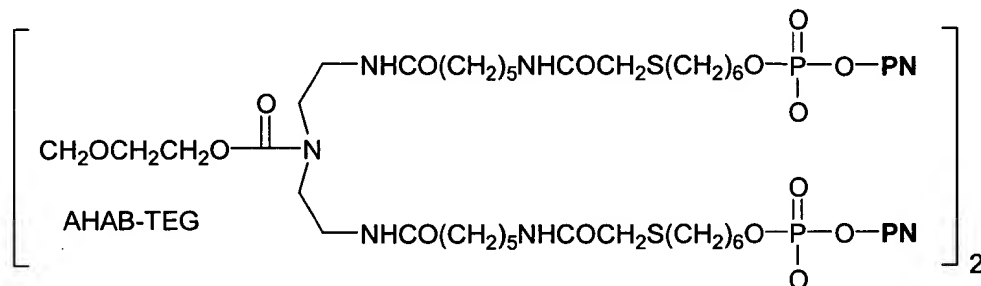
(a) assessing before initiation of treatment an apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') or a functional equivalent thereof for a polynucleotide in a conjugate and an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said polynucleotides consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the individual is selected to receive the treatment if the K_D' is less than about 1.0 mg IgG per ml; and
(b) administering to the individual the conjugate in an amount sufficient to increase the K_D' .

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33. (Once Amended) A method of treating SLE in an individual, comprising: (a) assessing before or upon initiation of treatment an apparent equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D') for a dsDNA epitope in or of a conjugate and an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA, said conjugate comprising (a) a non-immunogenic valency platform molecule and (b) two or more molecules comprising said epitopes, wherein the said epitopes are polynucleotides which specifically bind to an antibody from the individual which specifically binds to double stranded DNA and (b) administering to the individual the conjugate in an amount sufficient to increase the K_D' , wherein treatment is continued if K_D' is increased at least about 20% compared to K_D' before or upon initiation of treatment.

35. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

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36. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

39. (Once Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

Please add new claims 65-92 as follows:

65. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said affinity is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

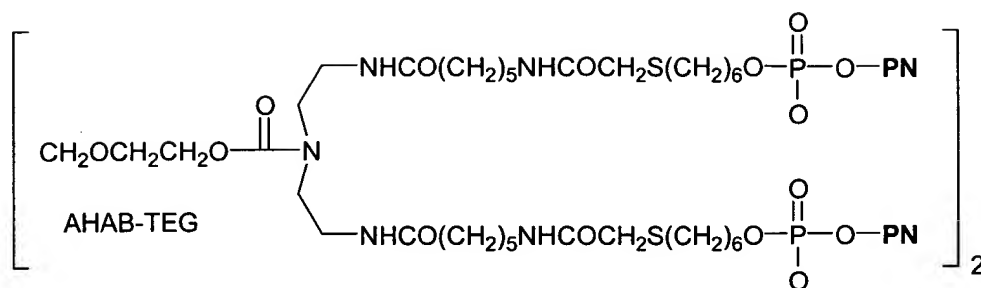
66. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

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67. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

68. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

69. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the platform molecule is



wherein PN is the polynucleotide.

70. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

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71. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

72. (New) A method according to claim 69, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

73. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the K_D ' value is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

74. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

75. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

76. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein said antibody affinity is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

77. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

78. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

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cont. 79. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

80. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

81. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

82. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

83. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the K_D value is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

84. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides comprising the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

85. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting essentially of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

86. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides consisting of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

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COO⁺. 87. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the polynucleotides comprise the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

88. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the polynucleotides consist essentially of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

89. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

90. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein the K_D value is measured by surface plasmon resonance assay.

91. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein the conjugate comprises four polynucleotides comprising the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

92. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein the polynucleotides consist of the sequence 5'- GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).